

May 25, 2021

To the Postal Regulatory Commission:

I am not part of the Postal sector; I am just an American who believes in the Postal Service. I am writing in opposition to the proposed changes to the Postal System that would further degrade service and standards.

I believe in Universal Service and the survival of a public agency the people of this country can rely on. The private sector is answerable to no one other than shareholders and can raise rates to any level it believes it can sustain. I know that USPS has been burdened by costs no other government agency carries in terms of pension obligations and an expectation that it turns a profit as if it were indeed a private sector business.

Everyone knows that the pandemic has worsened processing and delivery problems that already existed. I have experienced lost mail, returned mail improperly marked as "address does not exist" and delays like getting bills from my utilities only 6 or fewer days before their due dates, which I ascribe to the increasing use of temporary, non-union mail carriers. When it was the regular carrier five days a week, my mail arrived dependably. But further cuts to service will only worsen the situation.

Instead, I ask the PRC to study what would make the USPS viable once again reliable and efficient, by examining various and hybrid ways to pay for it. Americans want their PO to survive and no one is asking us how much we would be willing to pay for a first-class stamp for something we can be sure will arrive in a timely manner. If it is determined that 75-cents or more is what it would take, and that is deemed too onerous, then Congress can take up the question of providing additional funding or eliminating some of the ridiculously long future pension funding requirements.

This proposed 10-year plan will create a death spiral. Declining service will mean declining use. While I personally may have options for paying bills, banking and other necessary communications, many people do not. If you approve this plan, you should be honest enough to acknowledge that you are knowingly killing what is arguably our oldest Constitutional "original" public government agency.

Sincerely,

Patricia Boe
P.O. Box 131
Circle, MT 59215